



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

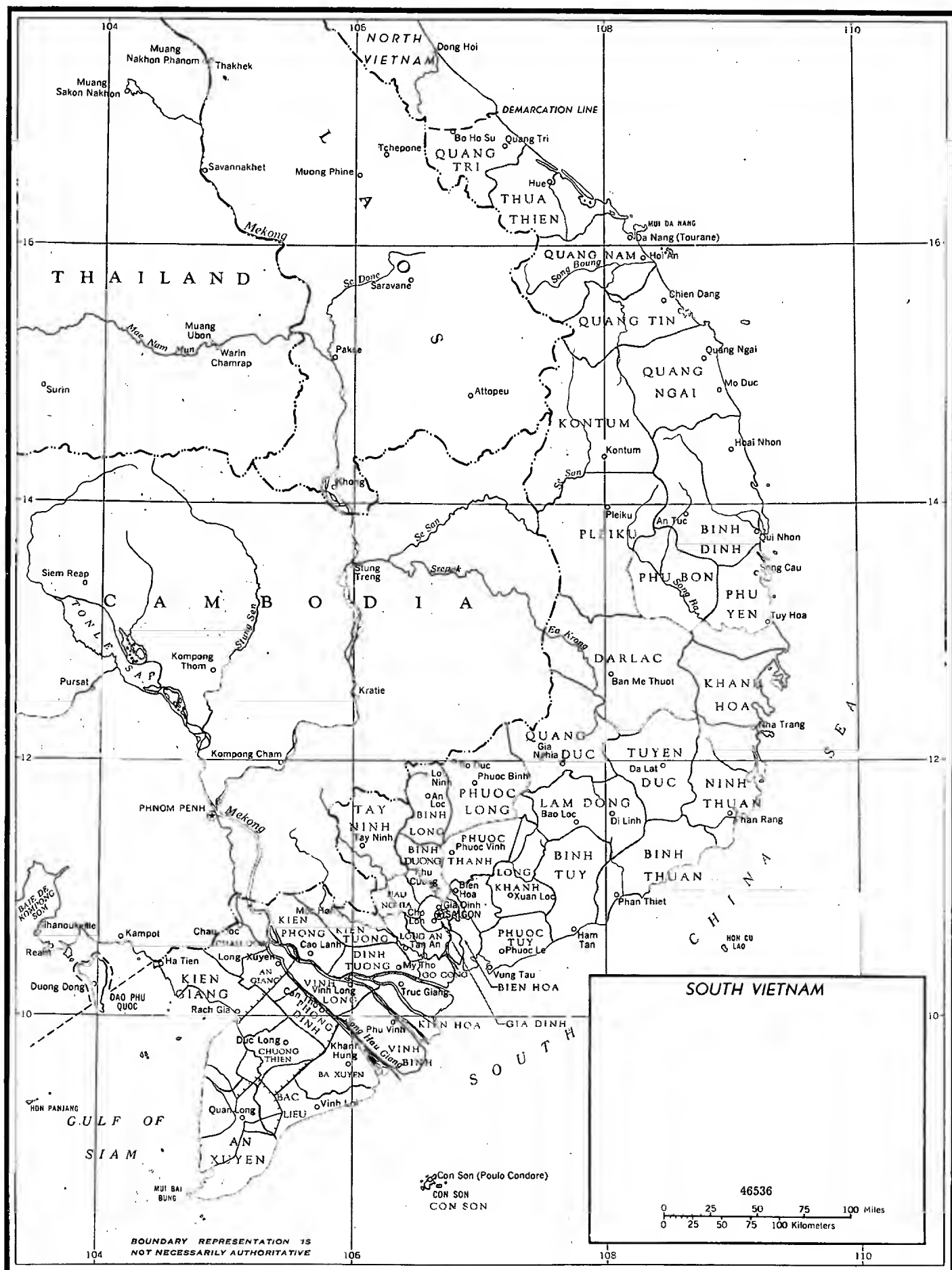
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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20 APRIL 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam

Press play of today's statement by Peiping's rubber-stamp National People's Congress appears overdrawn. The Congress statement does not carry Peiping's commitment to the Vietnamese beyond previous announcements.

The statement is part of Peiping's propaganda campaign to mobilize both foreign and domestic support for its policy on Vietnam. The statement continues to place conditions on the introduction of Chinese personnel; that is, in the event the US "continues to expand the war" and the "Vietnamese people need them."

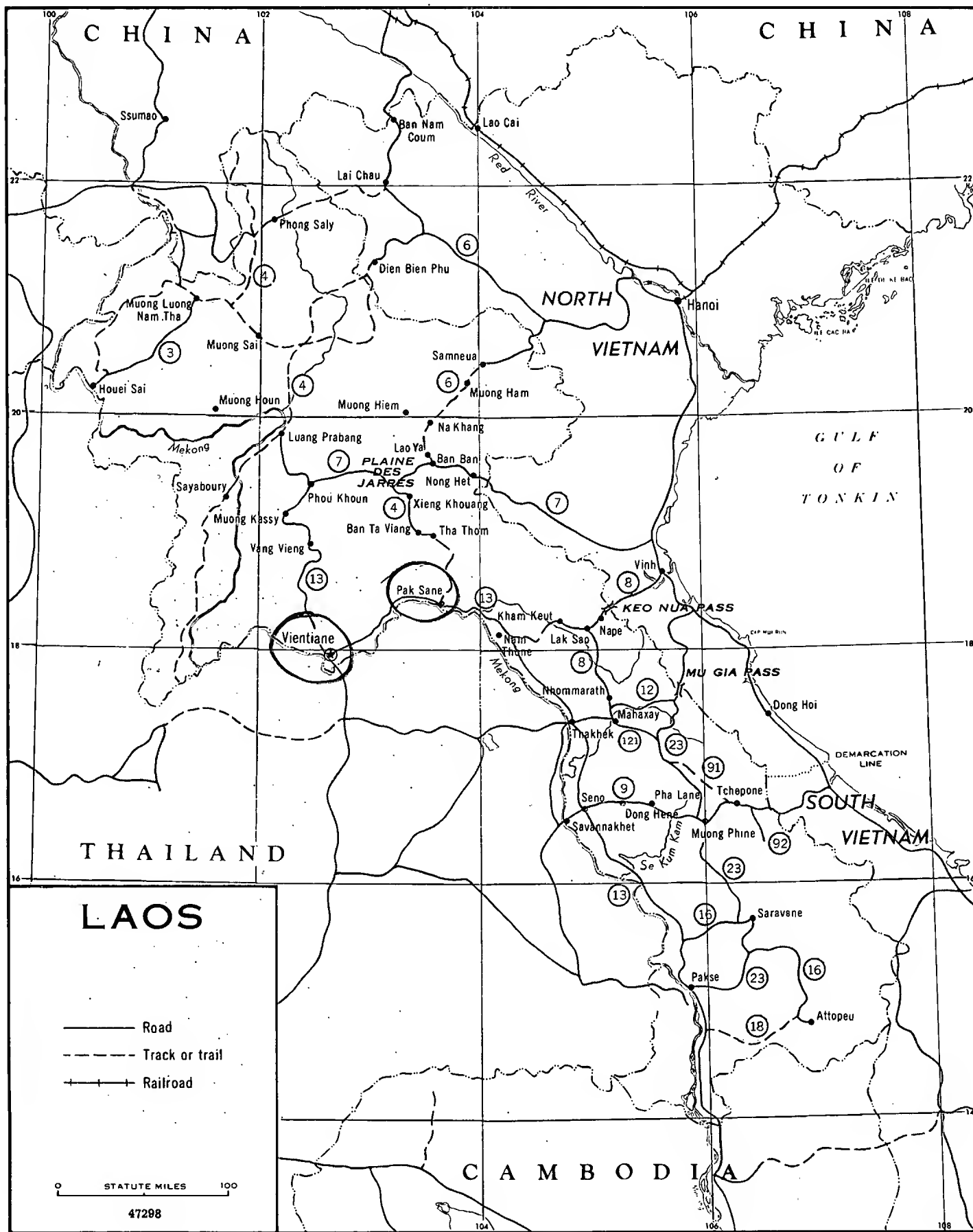
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2. South Vietnam

Major fighting continues for the second day in the area about 28 miles south of Danang. Government forces are attempting to dislodge an estimated three Viet Cong battalions entrenched near the road to the important government outpost at Viet An. More than 40 US aircraft struck the Viet Cong positions today, and the pilots claim to have inflicted heavy casualties..

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3. Laos

Some 600 rightist troops are still entrenched north of Pak Sane following their weekend mutiny. (See map.) Army leaders in Vientiane have made no move to negotiate and have deployed loyal troops to the area. Air strikes against the rebels have been ordered. The mutiny was apparently touched off by the arrest in Vientiane of General Kham Khong, commander of the Pak Sane area and a reported sympathizer of exiled rightist leader General Phoumi.

4. USSR

Ambassador Kohler notes that lately the Soviet press has treated France with unusual "delicacy." This has been the case in connection with such questions as Berlin, disarmament, and European unity, where the Soviets either refer to France's "realistic" position or fail to mention Paris at all. Kohler remarks that while this may be due to Gromyko's forthcoming visit to Paris, it may also reflect a long-range Soviet effort to set France apart from its Western allies.

5. Yemen

A new Yemeni Government is being formed and will apparently include some anti-Egyptian republican elements. Premier al-Amri resigned last week and has been replaced by independent-minded Ahmad Numan, who has already chosen a foreign minister known to be opposed to Egyptian interference in Yemeni Government affairs. More appointments will probably be made after Numan sounds out important tribal leaders later this week.

After the failure of the blatantly pro-Egyptian al-Amri government, Nasir may be trying at least a temporary accommodation with the republican opposition while working on a more lasting solution to the Yemen problem.

6. UAR

Communist countries have pledged about \$800 million in credits for the UAR's seven-year development plan beginning on 1 July. The Soviet share is about \$390 million, the East European \$325 million, and the Chinese \$80 million. Final figures on Egyptian foreign exchange needs under the plan are not yet available, but the Communist commitments may cover about half of these.

7. USSR

Moscow has just published Kosygin's March speech on the 1966-70 Soviet five-year plan. Kosygin called for higher wages, more consumer goods, and increased housing, adding these to the commitment the regime has already undertaken to boost agricultural production. The regime has given no clue, however, as to what sectors of the economy will be pinched in order to support these consumer-oriented projects.

8. Mexico

The government again cracked down on the Communists over the weekend. Police raided a Communist printing plant, confiscated propaganda materials, and arrested ten persons. Fifteen of the thirty party leaders arrested earlier last week have been released. The others are likely to be freed soon, but the government has made its warning clear.

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